

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Planning Division

Incorporation by Reference of 40 CFR Part 93
(LAC 33:III.1432) (AQ231*)

Under the authority of the Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the secretary gives notice that rulemaking procedures have been initiated to amend the Air regulations, LAC 33:III.1432 (Log #AQ231*).

This proposed rule is identical to federal regulations found in 40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A, July 1, 2002, and 67 FR 50808-50817, August 6, 2002, which are applicable in Louisiana. For more information regarding the federal requirement, contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 765-0399 or Box 82178, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2178. No fiscal or economic impact will result from the proposed rule; therefore, the rule will be promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:953.F.(3) and (4).

This proposed rule incorporates by reference into the state transportation conformity rule the latest edition of 40 CFR Part 93, dated July 1, 2002, and EPA amendments to the federal transportation conformity rule that were finalized August 6, 2002. The EPA rule amendments change two provisions of the transportation conformity rule that will provide state and local governments with additional time in the transportation conformity process. The changes are that areas designated nonattainment for the first time have a one-year grace period following the effective date of their nonattainment designation before conformity applies and conformity is required within 18 months of EPA's finding that SIP motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for use in the conformity process. The rule is effective upon the date of promulgation. The basis and rationale for this rule are to mirror the federal transportation conformity regulations as amended through August 6, 2002.

This proposed rule meets an exception listed in R.S. 30:2019.D.(2) and R.S. 49:953.G.(3); therefore, no report regarding environmental/health benefits and social/economic costs is required. This proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

A public hearing will be held on April 24, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. in the Maynard Ketcham Building, Room 326, 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments on the proposed amendments. Attendees should report directly to the hearing location for DEQ visitor registration, instead of to the security desk in the DEQ Headquarters building. Should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, contact Lynn Wilbanks at the address given below or at (225) 765-0399.

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulation. Persons commenting should reference this proposed regulation by AQ231*. Such comments must be received no later than April 24, 2003, at 4:30 p.m., and should be sent to Lynn Wilbanks, Regulation Development Section, Box 82178, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2178 or to FAX (225) 765-0389 or by e-mail to lynnw@deq.state.la.us. The comment period for this rule ends on the same date as the public hearing. Copies of this proposed regulation can be purchased by contacting the DEQ Records Management Section at (225) 765-0843. Check or money order is required in advance for each copy of AQ231*.

This proposed regulation is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Fourth Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70810; 1823 Highway 546, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 201 Evans Road, Building 4, Suite 420, New Orleans, LA 70123; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 104 Lococo Drive, Raceland, LA 70394 or on the Internet at <http://www.deq.state.la.us/planning/regs/index.htm>.

James H. Brent, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary

Title 33
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Part III. Air

Chapter 14. Conformity

Subchapter B. Conformity to State or Federal Implementation Plans of Transportation Plans, Programs, and Projects Developed, Funded, or Approved Under Title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act

§1432. Incorporation by Reference

A. 40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A, July 1, 2004², and amended Sections 102-104 in the Federal Register, Volume 67, No. 151, August 6, 2002, pages 50808 – 50817, are hereby incorporated by reference with the exclusion of Section 105.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2054.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Air Quality and Radiation Protection, Air Quality Division, LR 24:1280 (July 1998), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 27:2229 (December 2001), LR 28:994 (May 2002), LR 29: